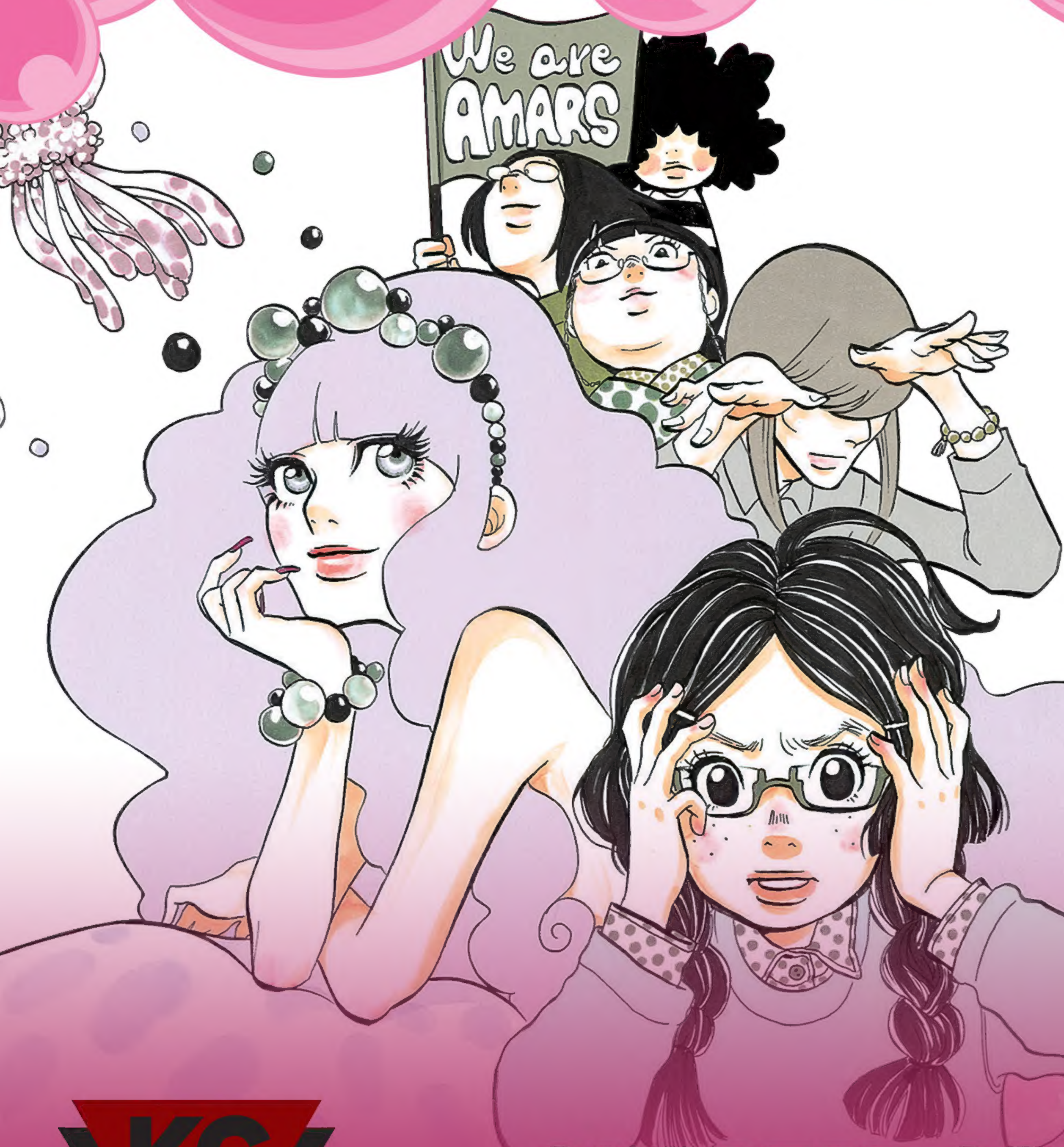
Princess Jellyfish



KC
KODANSHA
COMICS

CHAPTER 83

AKIKO HIGASHIMURA

Haven't you, Tsukimi?

You've been through a lot.

So much has happened...

Princess Jellyfish

Episode 83 - The New Jelly Fish

Akiko Higashimura

YOU MIGHT AS WELL BE DONG ZHUO, THE TYRANNICAL DICTATOR!!

DON'T ASK FOR SO MUCH ALL AT ONCE!!

To-Do List

WE'LL FINISH UP THREE JERSEY DRESS PROTOTYPES, TAKE PHOTOS, AND SUBMIT THEM TO NISHA.

I'M NOT ASKING FOR MUCH. I ONLY WANT THREE THINGS FOR TODAY!

APOLOGIZE TO THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, THAT MATHEMATICAL COUNTRY WHICH INVENTED ZERO!

THAT'S NOT THREE THINGS. WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU THINK "THREE" MEANS?

WHEN THAT'S DONE, YOU'LL GO TO ASAKUSABASHI TO GET NEW SUPPLIES FOR THE NEXT THREE, AND THEN ON THE WAY BACK, STOP IN SENDAGAYA AND RENT THREE DRESSFORM MANNEQUINS. THAT'S ALL!

OKAY, MR. HANAMORI APOL-OGIZED, SO WE'RE GOOD.

COME BACK WHEN YOU'RE DONE!

I'M SORRY, PERSON OF INDIA.

NO WOR-RIES.

Don't sweat it.

A" A" A" A" brrrrrmm

ti" ti" ti" ti"

skritch skritch skritch

NWAAH! THEY LOOK LIKE AN AUTOMATA EXHIBIT AT A DOLL MUSEUM!

THEY'VE BEEN WORKING HARD FOR TWO DAYS NOW, DOING SPECIALIZED STUFF ONLY THEY CAN DO.

WHY SHOULD **WE** HAVE TO GO ON THIS SCAVENGER HUNT?

YOU GUYS, JUST LOOK AT CHIEKO AND NOMU OVER THERE.

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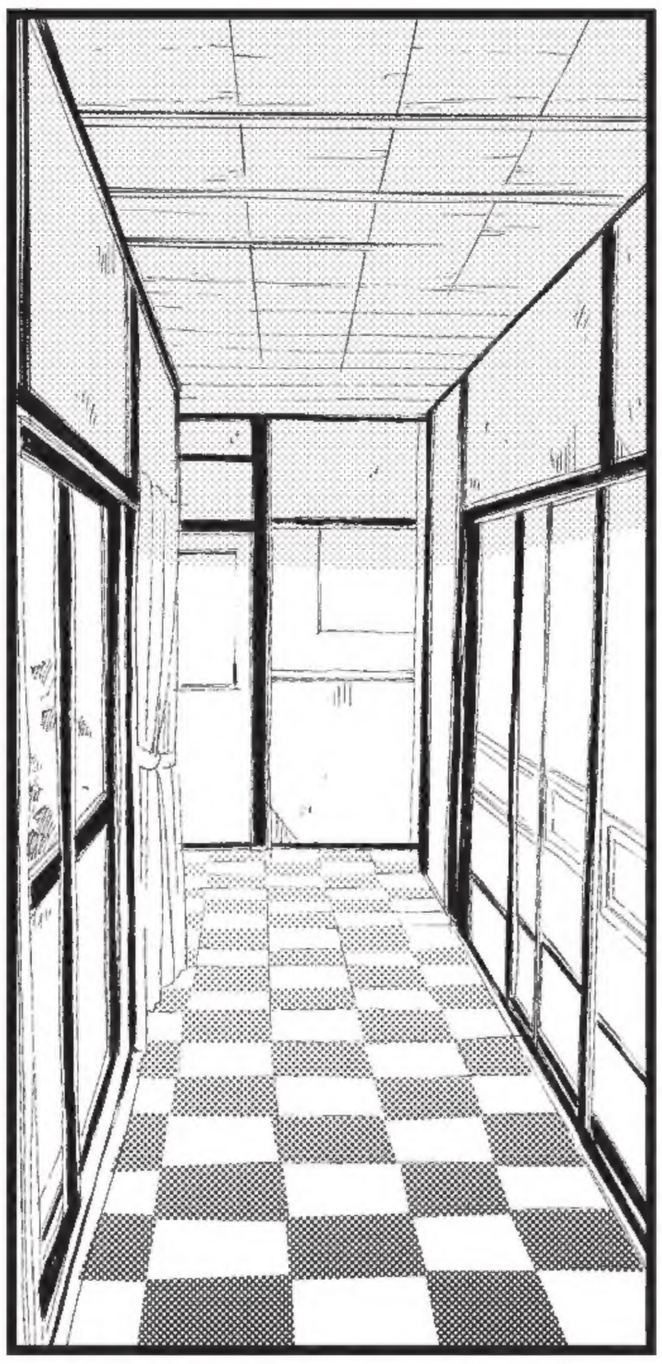
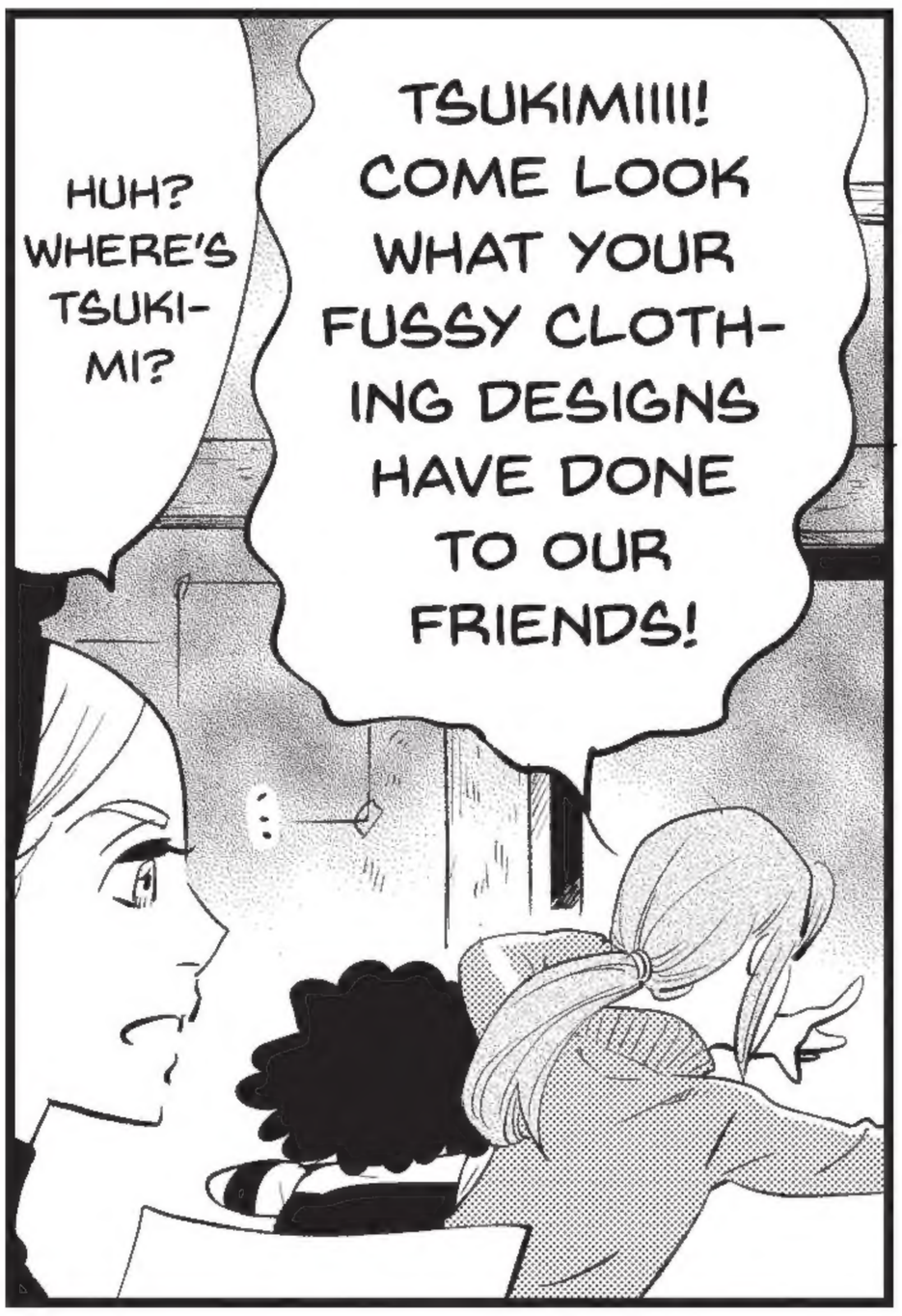
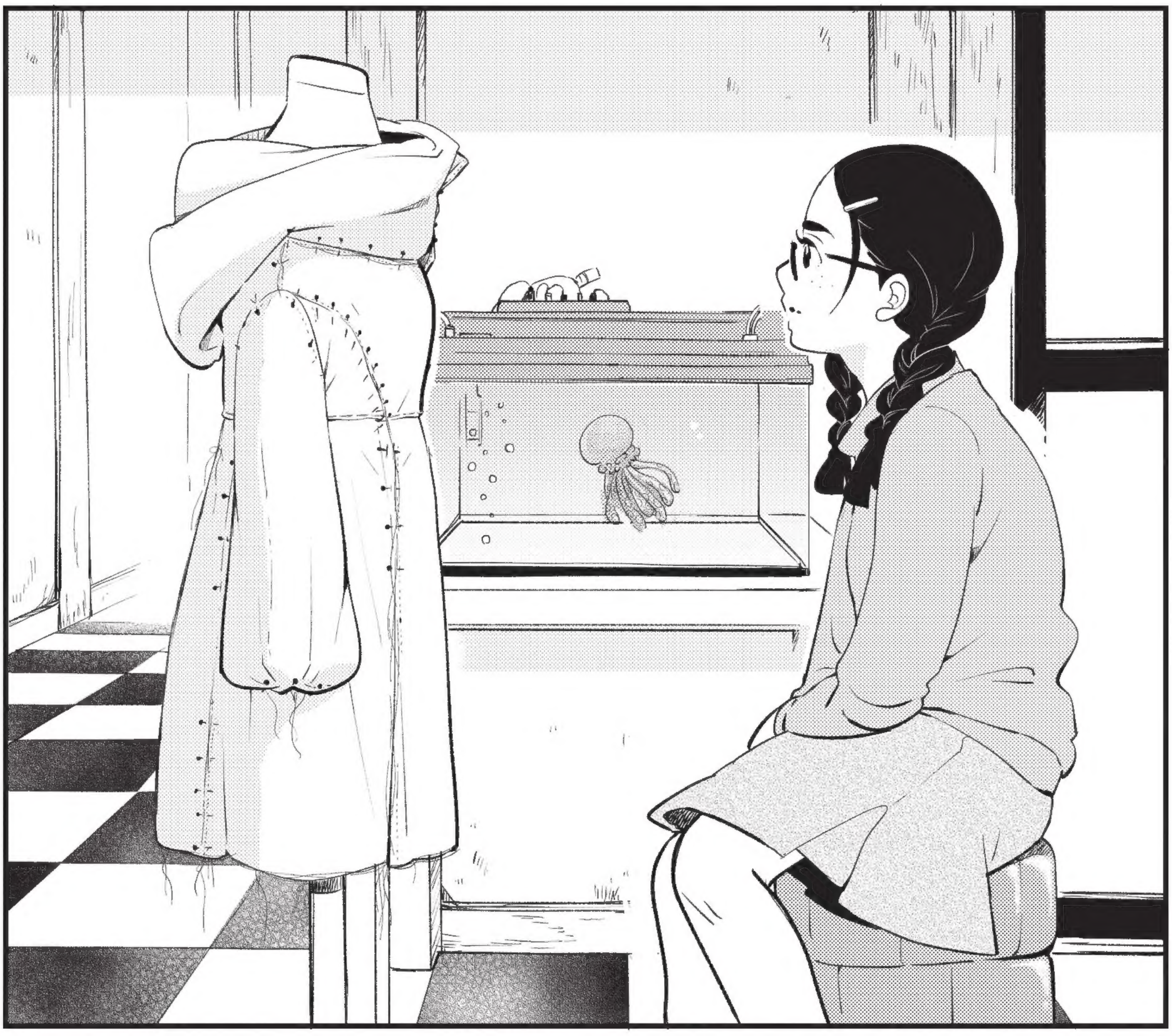
burble




HUH? WHERE'S TSUKI-MI?
TSUKIMIIII! COME LOOK WHAT YOUR FUSSY CLOTH-ING DESIGNS HAVE DONE TO OUR FRIENDS!



IT'S A DRESS MODELED AFTER YOU. WHAT DO YOU THINK?

CHECK THIS OUT.

TEE-HEE.

...

HEY, CLARA.

...

IT'S YOUR ROUND HEAD! LOOKS JUST LIKE YOU, RIGHT?

SEE, LOOK!

...

CLARA

...

ONCE, A LONG TIME AGO...

...I WENT TO SHIBUYA BY MYSELF TO SEE A JELLY-FISH PHOTO EXHIBITION.

...AND I GOT REALLY EMBAR-RASSED...

THERE WERE ALL THESE CUTE, STYLISH GIRLS EVERY-WHERE...

I BET NORMAL PEOPLE WOULD SAY THAT BEING SELF-CONSCIOUS LIKE THAT IS WEIRD, AND THAT NOBODY WAS LOOKING AT ME.

...SO I FREAKED OUT AND RAN AWAY.

I THOUGHT THAT IF MY CLOTHES FIT, THEY WERE GOOD ENOUGH.

I THOUGHT THE SAME THING, OF COURSE.

BUT KURANOSUKE SAID...

THAT IF I HAD THE MONEY FOR STYLISH THINGS, I'D RATHER SPEND IT VISITING THE AQUARIUM.

IT'S FUNNY, HUH?

HE'S THE OPPOSITE OF MY MOM.

AFTER ALL, MY MOM...

CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?

...

HEE HEE.

DON YOUR ARMOR!!

SHE SAID WHEN I BECAME A BRIDE, SHE'D MAKE ME A WEDDING DRESS...

...THAT LOOKED LIKE JELLY LACE.

...TOLD ME "ALL GIRLS CAN BE BEAUTIFUL PRINCESSES WHEN THEY GROW UP."

...ISN'T QUITE RIGHT FOR ME.

BUT PERSONALLY, I THINK BEING A BRIDE...

...I WANT TO MAKE DRESSES THAT CAN BE ARMOR FOR US SISTERS.

SO INSTEAD OF MAKING WEDDING DRESSES...

A soft, translucent membrane...

IV bloop

...that will envelop us like jelly.

I GUESS IT'S WEIRD TO CALL DRESSES ARMOR, HUH?

HA HA HA...

I hope that will be armor for us.

Protected by soft armor...

...we can become strong.

We can become free.

...and just float along like jellyfish when we get tired.

Then we can swim freely around this city...

Those are the clothes Jelly Fish will make.

NOW THIS MAKES ME WANT TO SCREAM...

..."OH *HELL* YEAH!"

AND IT'S LIGHT WITHOUT BEING TOO THIN.

IT DRAPES WELL, IT'S GOT LUSTER,

THIS FABRIC IS GOOD STUFF.

O-OUR LITTLE JERSEY GREW UP INTO FINE CLOTHIN'...

I'M SO GLAD IT WENT WELL.

YA'D THINK IT WAS TAILOR-MADE...

WE TIE THE TENTACLES IN BACK LIKE THIS...

AND THEN...

tug

CALL IT METAMORPHOSIS.

HERE COMES THE *HENTAI*!

HERE I GO.

WE UNDO THIS ZIPPER AND CONNECT IT OVER HERE...

AND NOW!

buzzz

I USED THE MACHINE TO STITCH THAT SASHIKO-STYLE...

SO YOU HID THE ZIPPER WITH THIS SASH, EH?

OH, SWEET.

droop

YOU'RE A GREAT SAMURAI NOW! (CHANNELING COACH HARA)

YOU'VE DONE WELL, CHIE-KOOOO!

I SPENT EIGHT HOURS ON THIS ROUND SASHIKO PATTERN!!

I think I lost weight!

SHE REALLY DOES ***NOT*** COMPRO-MISE ON THESE THINGS!

SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE, CHIEKO...

THAT ONE WAS ROUGH, TOO. THERE ARE SO MANY REVERSIBLE PARTS, I HAD TO CHANGE THE WAY I SEWED...

CAREFUL, IT'S STILL GOT SOME PINS IN IT.

OKAY, LET ME TRY ON THE SECOND ONE.

WHOA!

crack コキ crack コキ

chomp chomp バクバク

THIS ONE, COR-RECT?

AND THERE'S A HIDDEN ZIPPER HERE...

IT'S SUPER COMFORT-ABLE.

I LIKE THIS!

SHAZZZ

ﾋﾄﾞ

ｶﾞ

POK

ﾎﾞﾝﾔﾘ

FLOOP

NWAAH! METAMOR-PHOSIS, WE MEET AGAIN!

bam

METAMOR-PHO...

...SIS!

DON'T PLAY WITH THE FABRIC!

SERIOUS-LY, THIS IS GREAT.

Baron Jersey

DA-DUN

MUA HA HA! THINK YOU CAN DEFEAT ME?

IT'S STRETCHY, SO IT FALLS ALONG THE BODY AND MAKES A SLEEK LINE!

MORE IMPORTANTLY, THIS STRETCHES!

YES, IF WE MAKE IT IN LARGE, EVEN I COULD WEAR IT.

YES... WE USED ONE AT A MID-RANGE PRICE...

THE SILVER ZIPPER IS COOL. IT ADDS A TOUCH OF PUNK.

But I'm glad...

FA-WHA?!

TSUKIMI... ARE ***YOU*** GOING TO TRY ON THE THIRD ONE?

WHAT BROUGHT ON THIS MADNESS?!

OH! SORRY.

HMM? TSUKIMI?

I'M CHANGING CLOTHES.

HUH?!

BOTH OF THESE DRESSES ARE GREAT, EVERYONE!

THIS FABRIC IS A HUGE SUCCESS!

WHOA, IS THAT CLARA?

THIS IS THE THIRD JELLYFISH DRESS.

W-WELL, OKAY...

I PUT IT ON...

SHE REALLY PUT IT ON!! VOL-UNTARILY!!

スススス

shff shff

WILL SHE SALT AND DRY IT?!

...TO OPEN UP THE TORSO...

...YOU USE THE HIDDEN ZIPPER...

AND NOW...

SHE DIS-SECT-ED IT!

RIGHT. TIME TO SAY BYE-BYE!

ZZZrp

ZZZrp

SURE.

CHIEKO, COULD YOU HELP ME?

UM...

LET'S SEE, I TAKE THIS ROUND HOOD AND GO LIKE THIS...

...AND IT TURNS INTO THIS.

I,
WELL...

I MADE
THIS
BECAUSE
I WANTED
TO WEAR
IT.

BUT
FOR
THIS
ONE...

...AND
MADE THEM
BECAUSE
I WANTED
KURANOSUKE
TO WEAR
THEM.

...I WAS
ENVISIONING
A DEEP-SEA
PRINCESS,
AN AMA-
MIZU-KAN
PRINCESS...

WITH
OUR FIRST
DRESSES
FOR THE
SHOW...

I
THOUGHT
WITH THIS
FABRIC,
I COULD
WEAR IT,
TOO.

©

...I WANT THE SISTER-HOOD TO WEAR THESE TOGETHER!

SO...

AND THE FABRIC IS TOO THICK TO SEE THROUGH.

THEY'RE SOFT, AND STRONG,

AND THIS MILKY OFF-WHITE COLOR FEELS SAFE...

I MEAN, THEY FEEL REALLY GOOD.

THEY'RE NOT SLIP-PERY LIKE SILK.

Hi-yah!

foosh

2-1

LOOM

AND THEY CAN BE WASHED. ☆

SHE'S AL-READY WEAR-ING ONE!!

YOUR MOVES ARE SHARP TODAY.

YOU CAN WIN THIS!

NICE.

bam

whoosh

TOH!

YAH! YAH! YAH!

THAT WAS NORMAL MAYAYA RANGE OF MOTION.

NICE!

THIS DRESS IS EASY TO MOVE AROUND IN, AND I GIVE IT VERY HIGH MARKS.

JIJI.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

...ALL RIGHT.

I THINK AT THIS POINT WE HAVE DO TO IT.

THAT'S BEEN MY VOTE ALL ALONG.

...

RIGHT, THEN!

LET'S GO LOOKING FOR A ZERO-YEN VENUE!

REALLY ...

ERRANDS ARE SUCH A PAIN.

vrrrrrrrrrrrm

FEED US SWEETS!

ROGER THAT.

OI, HANA-MORI.

WE'RE GONNA BUILD IN SOME SLACK-ING-OFF TIME.

vroom

GO, GO, GO!

TAIYAKI IS THE OPTIMAL SLACKING OFF SNACK. THE SLACKER FOOD OF CHAMPIONS. ART THOU A GENIUS?

NICE! YOU HAVE GOOD IN-STINCTS!

THERE'S A TAIYAKI PLACE I LIKE NEAR HERE.

Woo!

WE CAUGHT A BIG ONE TODAY!

WOO!

piping hot

Bag: Naniwaya

munch munch

WOULD YOU MIND BUYING US SOME TEA FIRST?

LET'S EAT IN THAT PARK.

YOU SHOULD THINK OF THAT WITH-OUT HER ASK-ING!

THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH PEOPLE WHO WORK ON NICE DAYS LIKE THIS.

ARE THEY JUST IDIOTS?

THIS WEATHER IS RIGH-TEOUS.

AHHHH.

SLACKING OFF IS THE BEST.

TSUKIMI ACCIDENTALLY CALLS KURAKO "KURANOSUKE" ALMOST EVERY DAY, YOU KNOW?

SAY.

THERE'S SOME-THING I'VE BEEN THINKING...

WHAT IS IT?

BUT "PRODIGAL DAUGHTER" ISN'T THE STANDARD PHRASE, SO.

YEAH, I REMEMBER THAT.

SHE ONCE CALLED HERSELF A "PRODIGAL SON," YOU KNOW?

YEAH.

SHE DID IT AGAIN TODAY.

BUT KURA-KO'S PRAC-TICAL-LY A BOY ANY-WAY, SO.

SHE'S A LITTLE WEIRD.

AND THEN THERE'S KURAKO.

NAH, I THINK "GIRL" IS THE RIGHT ANSWER THERE.

MAYBE SHE WISHES SHE WERE BORN A BOY.

I WON-DER...

もぐもぐ munch munch

I MEAN, DON'T TELL ANYONE, BUT I SOMETIMES GET KINDA HOT EVEN DESPITE THE MAN ISSUE.

IF KURANO-SUKE WERE THE OTHER GENDER, I'D BE ALL OVER THAT SO FAST...

HUH?

...

WHICH GENDER ARE YOU SAYING IS WHICH FOR WHO?

WHOSE PER-SPECTIVE ARE YOU TALKING FROM?

WHAT?

WHICH ONE?

WHICH?

WAIT, WHAT?

WAIT, THAT MEANS THEY BOTH WANT THE SAME THING. WAIT, WHAT? NOW I'M GETTING CONFUSED.

SHEESH! WE WERE SAYING KURAKO WANTS TO BE A MAN, BUT SHE'S A WOMAN. BUT HER POLITICIAN DAD DESIGNATED HER A MAN AND TREATS HER LIKE A MAN, SO—

ER, WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

ABOUT WHAT I SAID!

BUT ACTUALLY, DID ANYONE TELL ME TO KEEP QUIET ABOUT IT?

ABOUT *WHAT?*

DID I SAY SOMETHING I SHOULDN'T AGAIN?

HUH?

ABOUT KURANOSUKE BEING A MAN.

DO YOU KNOW ANY AWESOME COMMUNITY CENTERS RUN BY THE STATE THAT PEOPLE CAN RENT FOR FREE?

HEY, DAD.

WHAT?

REALLY?

COMMUNITY CENTERS ARE RUN BY MUNICIPALITIES, BY THE WAY. THE STATE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.

ARE YOU UP TO NO GOOD AGAIN?

...

IN THAT CASE, I'LL TAKE A FED-ERALLY RUN HALL OR GYM OR SOME-THING.

smack-down

LISTEN TO ME, KURA-NOSUKE.

IT'S TIME TO STOP YOUR LITTLE GAMES OF MAKE-BELIEVE.

LOOK, I KNOW YOU WANT TO DIS ME, BUT THAT'S NOT EVEN IN THE SAME NEIGH-BORHOOD AS "FASHION SHOW."

YOU'RE GOING THROW ANOTH-ER ONE, AREN'T YOU?

ANOTHER OF YOUR DISGRACEFUL PARTIES.

YOU NEVER KNOW, THE NEW OWNER MIGHT DECIDE TO SELL.

I HEAR THAT RUN-DOWN BUILDING AMAMIZU-KAN CHANGED OWNERS. HOW'S THAT WORKING OUT?

THE AMAMIZU REDEVELOP-MENT PROJECT IS STILL ONGOING, YOU KNOW.

SO, YOU PLAN TO KEEP GOING WITH YOUR STUPID MAKE-BELIEVE WHILE YOU LIVE OFF MY MONEY.

HA!

...

IT'LL BE FINE.

BECAUSE I'M GOING TO BUY IT FROM HIM.

OH CRAP, HE'S PISSED AGAIN.

KURANO-SUKE... YOU...

panic panic

RUN-NING AWAY!

HEH.

YOU'RE A DIRTY POLITICIAN. YOUR CON-NECTIONS ARE MORE USEFUL THAN YOUR MONEY.

PER-FECT TIMING!

YOU'RE NOT USUALLY HOME AT THIS HOUR.

KURANO-SUKE.

DASH

I HAVE A *TINY* FAVOR TO ASK YOU, DEAR BROTHER...

IT COSTS A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF MONEY TO RENT ANY FACILITY, EVEN A PUBLIC ONE.

I SEEM TO RECALL THE YOYOGI GYMNASIUM BEING ABOUT 600,000 OR 700,000...

A NICE HALL OR GYM BUILT AT THE EXPENSE OF HARDWORK-ING TAXPAY-ERS.

GOTTA BE ONE, RIGHT?

A VENUE IN THE CITY YOU CAN RENT FOR FREE, THAT COMES WITH LIGHTING EQUIPMENT?

...

TOO MUCH! MAKE IT 150 YEN!

BUT I THINK THAT'S AROUND 1.5 MILLION YEN...

THERE'S A BIG PARTY LOUNGE IN THE NATIONAL MUSEUM...

WHAT?!

THAT'S SO MUCH!

CAN YOU GET IT FOR FREE IF YOU'RE IN THE DIET?

I PROPOSED TO TSUKIMI THE OTHER DAY, AND SHE TURNED ME DOWN.

OH, BY THE WAY.

I HAVE SOME-THING TO REPORT.

taka taka

LET'S HEAR IT.

...

NO.

DID SHE TELL YOU?

...I DID SORTA SUSPECT THAT.

BUT...

SHE DIDN'T TELL ME DIRECT-LY.

I'M SORRY.

OH.

HUH?!

...

YEAH, WE ARE.

YOU'RE DOING ANOTHER FASHION SHOW?

SO I ASSUME

click

カチ

I APOLO-GIZE.

IT'S A CRITICAL TIME FOR YOU,

BUT I'VE ONLY BEEN THINKING ABOUT MYSELF.

SO...

...LET ME KNOW IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO.

TRULY.

I'M ASHAMED OF MY-SELF.

SHU ...

BROTH-ER...

ARE YOU HUNGRY?

HMM?

...

SHU.

toss

crack

PROB-ABLY NOT.

I CAN'T TELL THE DIFFER-ENCE.

THERE WAS NO PARMIGIANO-REGGIANO, SO I USED REGULAR CHEAP CHEESE.

IT'S GOOD.

HMM.

IT'D BE FUN IF THE THREE OF US COULD LIVE TOGETHER.

WHAT ARE YOU SAY—

WAIT...

INDEPENDENTLY OF ROMANCE OR MARRIAGE.

IS THAT OUT OF THE QUESTION?

THE ODD, MISMATCHED TRIO OF US, LIVING TOGETHER FOREVER.

HA HA.

WHAT A WEIRD THING TO SAY.

SHU...

...

IF...

SHU.

FORGET I SAID THAT, OKAY?

IF THAT'S NOT IMPOSSIBLE...

...THEN COULD MOM HAVE LIVED HERE?

I WISH THINGS HAD GONE LIKE THAT.

...

EVEN IF THE WORLD THOUGHT WE WERE WEIRD...

FROM MY PER-SPEC-TIVE...

...IF WE COULD ALL LIVE IN THIS BIG HOUSE TOGETHER...

...THAT'S WHAT I'D WANT MOST.

OR MAYBE SHE'LL EVEN PICK SOME-ONE OTHER THAN US...

SHE'LL PICK ONE OF US...

BUT SOME-DAY SHE'LL WANT A MAN.

TSUKIMI CAN'T THINK ABOUT ANYTHING BUT DRESSMAKING RIGHT NOW,

AND THEN...

...

KURANO-SUKE...

...WE'LL BE SPLIT UP AGAIN.

WHERE IS MOM?

SHU.

I WANT TO SHOW HER THE JELLY DRESSES WE MADE.

I WANT TO SHOW HER.

I DON'T REMEMBER US EVER GOING TO THE AQUARIUM TOGETHER, SO MAYBE NOT.

I WONDER IF SHE'S EVER SEEN A REAL JELLY.

I WONDER IF SHE'D BE SUR-PRISED BY THE IDEA OF A JELLYFISH DRESS.

THAT'S IT.

KURANO-SUKE.

THERE'S THE AQUARIUM!

HUH?

THE VENUE!

WHICH "THIS" ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?

swivel

SAY WHAT?

LEAVE THIS TO ME.

RIGHT.

click

THUMP

LEAVE THE VENUE FOR THIS SHOW TO YOUR BIG BROTHER!!

Tee-hee.

Every day's a big fuss about something or other...

You cry, you laugh...

You fall in love...

Every-one's been through a lot.

Humans really seem to have it rough.

But Clara here is jeal-ous of you humans.

That side of the glass always seems exciting and fun.

Don't you agree, Tsukimi?

To be continued...